



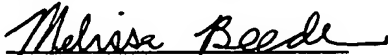
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
- EXPEDITED PROCEDURE -  
EXAMINING GROUP 1700

Docket No.: U0131.70009US00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Geoffrey H. Jenkins et al.  
Serial No.: 10/017475  
Confirmation No.: 5215  
Filed: December 14, 2001  
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR RAPIDLY STERILIZING  
SMALL OBJECTS  
Examiner: E. L. McKane  
Art Unit: 1744

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| Certificate of Mailing Under 37 CFR 1.8(a)  |  |
| I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. |  |
| Dated: <u>10-16-06</u>  | <br>Melissa A. Beede, Reg. No. 54,988 |

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated June 15, 2006, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.